

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Review of FTAs

709. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent to Free Trade Agreements with various countries have benefited the farmers of other countries;

(b) whether there is a proposal to review the benefits of such agreements;

(c) if so, whether all such agreements would be reviewed, freshly assessed and audited to find to their benefits; and

(d) the steps proposed to review all those agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) The Free Trade Agreements provide tariff concessions on items not included in the negative/sensitive lists. Accordingly farmers of other countries are likely to benefit from the preferential market access made available on agriculture items, which India has agreed to provide tariff concessions under the FTAs. However, many agricultural items have been retained in India's Negative List with its FTA partners. Free Trade Agreements are signed for mutual benefits. There is no proposal to review all these agreements.

NSC Caution regarding foreign investment

**†710. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:**

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Security Council has advised Government to exercise care in granting approvals to foreign capital investments for certain areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the Council has identified the countries from which capital investments should be obtained carefully; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, which are those countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Fall in price of spices

711. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a downward trend in the price of spices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken measures to protect the interests of the farmers against the price fluctuations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The prices of spices except that of ginger, turmeric and vanilla are showing upward trend during the April-October period 2006-07 as compared to the previous year.

(b) Details of prices of spices as compared with corresponding period in India are as follows:

Prices: Rs./Kg		
Spices	2005-06	2006-07(April-Oct.)
Pepper	66.44	91.35
Cardamom (Small)	218.22	352.94
Chilli	24.57	48.04
Clove	233.04	317.37
Ginger	99.40	57.52
Turmeric	49.45	45.05
Vanilla	1679.10	1661.15